

## **Congressman Childers Supports Hard-Working North Mississippians on One-Year Anniversary of Recovery Act**

February 17, 2010

Washington, DC – Today marks the one year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was signed into law on February 17, 2009 to save and create jobs and uplift the economy through local investments in infrastructure, small business, education, and other areas, as well as one of the largest middle-class tax cuts in history. To recognize the importance of this legislation in stabilizing North Mississippi's local economies, Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) joined Three Rivers Planning & Development District (TRPDD) in Pontotoc to announce a job training and placement grant made available through the Recovery Act.

A memo is attached with additional information on the one year anniversary of the Recovery Act.

“Because of the Recovery Act – signed into law one year ago today – Mississippi families and businesses have received much-needed relief, thousands of jobs have been saved and created, and massive budget cuts have been prevented. Recovery Act funding will continue to support hard-working Mississippi families and local businesses, boosting economic development and job growth in our local communities, and I will keep working hard to ensure that Mississippi gets its fair share of Recovery Act dollars.”

Later in the day, Childers served soup at the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Empty Bowls Luncheon in Tupelo.

“Many hard-working North Mississippi families are still struggling to make ends meet. While we have some way to go before we fully rebuild our economy, it’s even more frightening to imagine what things would have been like had we done nothing one year ago. I will keep doing everything I can to create jobs in North Mississippi and get families and businesses back on their feet. We aren’t out of the woods yet, but we’re on our way.”

Mississippi’s Recovery Act State Stabilization Fund has provided \$500,000 for the Mississippi Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement (RAMP) Program. RAMP is an innovative fast-track program to rapidly train and place dislocated workers, low-income individuals, and veterans in advanced manufacturing and green jobs. TRPDD will implement this project in partnership with the South Delta Planning & Development District (SDPDD), and in collaboration with the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Investment Area (MPWIA), Delta Workforce Investment Area (DWIA), area employers, and education and training providers.

Today, the Recovery Act is continuing to provide:

- Tax relief for businesses and working families;
- Small business loans, which are exempt from reporting;
- The first-time homebuyer tax credit, which I fought to extend and is now available through April;
- Direct federal aid, including \$250 direct stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits, increased food stamp benefits for vulnerable families; and
- State fiscal relief, which prevented job cuts at the state and local government level.

The Council of Economic Advisers estimates that the Recovery Act has saved or created 17,000 jobs in Mississippi in 2009 alone. Overall, the Recovery Act is estimated to create and save 30,000 jobs statewide and 9,000 jobs in the First District.

Mississippi has received 1,860 awards to date worth nearly \$2.1 billion. The First District itself has received 417 awards worth \$457.8 million. MDOT has been allocated \$377.5 million, of which it has already received \$343.9 million. [[www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)]

The Recovery Act also created a \$637 million State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to prevent teacher

layoffs and other cutbacks in education and other key services.

According to recent data provided by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mississippi has been able to improve more than 300 miles of roadway and nearly 20 bridges because of funding made available by the Recovery Act since its implementation in February of last year.

For more information on the First District's and Mississippi's share of Recovery Act funds, visit Congressman Childers' online Recovery Tracker at [www.childers.house.gov](http://www.childers.house.gov) .

*A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit [www.childers.house.gov](http://www.childers.house.gov)*

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